

## Rare lichen rediscovered at Trotters Gorge.

Dr Dan Blanchon's January visit to search for an elusive species of *Ramalina* was not in vain. He spent a long, hot day with Allison Knight searching for a rare *Ramalina* sp, containing evernic and obtusatic acid unlike any other New Zealand *Ramalina* sp. This lichen, yet to be identified or given a new name, was first collected by John Scott Thomson in the 1930s, found again by Charles Murray in the 1950s and had not been seen since. We scaled many calcareous bluffs, often surrounded by gorse and/or bush lawyer, before we stumbled on our prize and took it to Jennifer Bannister, who had requested the specimen. Dan and Jennifer also visited Victory Beach to survey the *Ramalina fimbriata* there.

**Prize for updated botanical names!** BSO is offering a prize of a year's free subscription for the first person to provide the current botanical names, with references, for the taxa illustrated by Robert Donn and featured in the article by Mary Anne Miller.

## News from other Botanical Societies

The Canterbury Botanical Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding a symposium entitled **Conserving Native Plants for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century**. See below for details. Check out the excellent January newsletter from the Rototrua Botanical society. Current newsletters from botanical societies in Auckland, Waikato, Manawatu, Wellington, Christchurch, Wakatipu and Berlin! are also displayed on the display shelf in the Department of Botany tea room. Back copies of newsletters, including the Botanical Society of New Zealand and BSO, are stored in the Department of Botany computer room.

## Conserving Native Plants for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century

The Canterbury Botanical Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding a symposium entitled **Conserving Native Plants for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century**.

It will take place at the University of Canterbury on Saturday 7 June 2003.

The Society has invited speakers who are active in conservation as scientists, managers, or advocates.

They will contribute forward-looking discussions, rather than accounts of research in progress.

While the emphasis is on plant species, communities and habitats of Canterbury and Westland, the topics are relevant to New Zealand as a whole.

The programme will interest Society members, scientists, conservation managers, and others with a concern for native plants.

Offers of poster papers are welcome.

The Society intends to publish the proceedings of the symposium as a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue.